

Appl. No. 09/851,883
Amdt. dated August 8, 2003
Reply to Office action of August 4, 2003

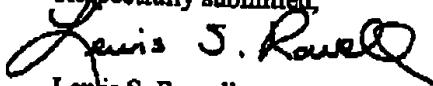
FAX RECEIVED
AUG 13 2003
GROUP 1700

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8, 12-17, and 21-22 remain pending in the case. Applicant herein amends independent Claims 1 and 12 in accordance with the interview of May 21, 2003 between Applicant's attorney and Examiners Torres-Valazquez and Cole.

The Applicants believes that the Examiner's rejections have been successfully overcome, and the application has been placed in condition for immediate allowance. Such action is respectfully requested. However, if any issue remains unresolved, Applicant's attorney would welcome the opportunity for a telephone interview to expedite allowance and issue.

Respectfully submitted,



Lewis S. Rowell
Registration No. 45,469
C. Robert Rhodes
Registration No. 24,200
Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC
300 North Greens Street
1900 First Union Tower
Greensboro, NC 27401
336-574-8090

Date: August 11, 2003
File No.: 4500-18

OFFICIAL